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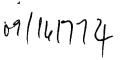
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 09/161,774 09/29/98 SAKAGUCHI K 35.C10530C1/ **EXAMINER** 005514 MMC2/0508 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO FOURSON III.G ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK NY 10112 2823

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Please see attached copies of the PTO-1449 filed 2/10/00 and 1/13/00.

The instant application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the Interference initiated by applicant.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956. See MPEP 203.08.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner George Fourson whose telephone number is (703) 308-2544. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (703) 308-4918. The fax number for this group is (703)308-7722(7724,3431 and 3432). MPEP 502.01 contains instructions regarding procedures used in submitting responses by facsimile transfolission.

George Fourson

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2823

GFourson April 30, 2001

> George R Fourson Examiner Art Unit: 2823